

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Office of the Inspector General

GREGORY W. SULLIVAN  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

February 29, 2012

JOHN W. McCORMACK  
STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE  
ROOM 1311  
BOSTON, MA 02108  
TEL: (617) 727-9140  
FAX: (617) 723-2334

Jonathan Davis  
Acting General Manager  
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority  
10 Park Plaza, 3rd floor  
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Mr. Davis:

Thank you for your reply of February 6, 2012 regarding the matter of possible unauthorized parking on Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) property.

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) appreciates that the MBTA has "limited staff and strained resources" to monitor and enforce parking system-wide. The OIG did not suggest that the MBTA take any system-wide monitoring or enforcement steps. However, we did point out vulnerabilities and requested that the MBTA provide information regarding what monitoring and enforcement mechanisms are currently in place. In our January 30<sup>th</sup> letter we inquired as to the "MBTA's overall policies regarding the use and enforcement of parking at MBTA facilities and 'MBTA Only' parking areas." Your reply did not include this information.

Regarding the specific parking area referenced in our previous letter, we would like to be notified of the results of the investigation that you stated would be conducted by MBTA staff and what enforcement action is taken as a result of this investigation. We would be glad to assist by providing the Transit Police with license-plate numbers and other information for parking transgressors identified by the OIG (such as owners of local businesses).

You also stated in your letter that the MBTA would be notifying all employees that parking on MBTA property is for official business only. We would be grateful if the OIG could be copied on any communication to MBTA employees regarding this matter.

Thank you again for your timely response and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory W. Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gregory W. Sullivan  
Inspector General

Attachments



Deval L. Patrick, Governor  
Timothy P. Murray, Lt. Governor  
Richard A. Davey, MassDOT Secretary & CEO  
Jonathan R. Davis, Acting General Manager  
and Rail & Transit Administrator



February 6, 2012

RECEIVED

Mr. Gregory W. Sullivan, Inspector General  
Office of the Inspector General  
One Ashburton Place  
Boston, MA 02108

FEB 10 2012

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

Re: Parking on MBTA Property

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

I am responding to your letter of January 30, 2012 regarding possible misuse of MBTA property. More specifically, you identified potential unauthorized parking on Authority property near North Station. Please be advised that MBTA staff will investigate parking at this location to determine who is authorized to park and for what duration. We will take appropriate enforcement action against those not authorized to park at this location.

Please note that the MBTA owns more than 5,000 parcels of property within the Commonwealth, which includes over 100 parking facilities. With limited staff and strained resources, it is a significant challenge to monitor and enforce unauthorized parking at all of these locations. Notwithstanding, it is my intention to notify MBTA employees that parking on Authority property is for official business only. Moreover, I will direct Transit Police to increase enforcement of unauthorized parking on MBTA property.

Thank you for bringing this issue to my attention. Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Jonathan R. Davis,  
Acting General Manager  
and Rail & Transit Administrator

cc: R. Davey, MassDOT; R. Rollins, MassDOT; G. Kelley, MBTA; M. Boyle, MBTA



**GREGORY W. SULLIVAN**  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

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*Office of the Inspector General*

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STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
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January 30, 2012

Jonathan Davis  
Acting General Manager  
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority  
10 Park Plaza; 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02116-3978

Dear Mr. Davis:

The Office of the Inspector General wishes to bring to your attention the possible misuse of Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) property. The property in question is an MBTA parking lot approximately one city block from North Station. (please see attached map.)

OIG staff visited this property and recorded the license plate numbers of the 69 vehicles parked there. An OIG review of available data sources found that more than half of the vehicles could not be readily associated (either directly or indirectly) with an MBTA employee. The OIG understands that this finding alone is not definitive evidence of the misuse of this property. However, the OIG believes this does indicate a risk and raises the following points to demonstrate the MBTA's vulnerability to the misuse of its property:

- The OIG identified a number of vehicles that do not appear to belong on MBTA property. For example, the OIG found two vehicles registered to the owner of a restaurant on nearby Canal Street, one vehicle registered to the owner of a nearby liquor store, one vehicle registered to a company in the precious metal business, and four vehicles registered to employees of the state trial court.
- The OIG identified that the MBTA does not appear to have a standard means to identify vehicles authorized to be on the property. For example, OIG staff witnessed a wide variety of items placed on vehicle dashboards including: placards with "T" logos including some that appeared to be

hand-drawn, police placards, "emergency" or "official business" placards, contractor placards, MBTA publications or correspondence, business cards, and the majority of vehicles had orange-colored safety vests placed on the dashboard. A smaller number of vehicles had MBTA parking stickers for locations such as "Wellington" or "Forest Hills."

- Anecdotal evidence suggests that a greater number of vehicles park at this lot in the evenings when there is a sporting event taking place at the nearby TDGarden.

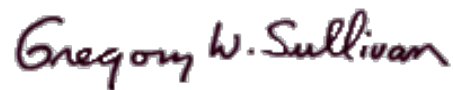
The OIG is concerned that unauthorized persons and off-duty MBTA employees could be taking advantage of the MBTA's irregular vehicle identification and enforcement practices. Owing to the cost of daily and event parking in the area, there could be substantial financial benefit to any unauthorized users.

The OIG is also concerned that misuse could extend to other MBTA properties throughout the greater Boston area.

The OIG is requesting that the MBTA review this matter and provide this Office with a response regarding both the property in question and the MBTA's overall policies regarding the use and enforcement of parking at MBTA facilities and "MBTA Only" parking areas.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Gregory W. Sullivan  
Inspector General

Attachment

Cc: Rachael Rollins, General Counsel, MassDOT

Source: Google Maps – Address: Valenti Way, Boston Massachusetts  
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